

# **Is Your Population Health Working Group Delivering Evidenced-Based Medicine?**

**By  
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One of the Air Force Medical Service's critical success factors for population health is to *manage medical and disease conditions*. According to AFI 44-102, *Community Health Management*, MTFs will use clinical practice guidelines (CPG) to deliver evidenced-based medicine for high-volume, high-cost, high-risk and/or problem-prone areas. On the Population Health Support Division website the goals for condition management are:

1. Improve clinical outcomes
2. Reduce practice variation
3. Improve economic outcomes for patients and payers

One of the ways the Health Services Inspection looks at management of medical and disease conditions is by examining the selection, implementation and sustainment of CPGs. During document review, we look for information about CPGs in Population Health working group minutes, medical record reviews, medical group instructions and specific information the MTF supplies on CPGs. We then validate what we see during the Population Health and Primary Care Optimization Clinical Management conferences. We ask basic questions such as:

1. What CPGs are the MTF using?
2. Why were those CPGs selected?
3. How does that CPG meet the needs of your enrolled population?
4. How do you know the CPG is effective?
5. How is effectiveness measured?
6. How is the CPG sustained and/or employed equitably throughout the MTF?
7. How are PCO Teams provided feedback about their clinical performance in regard to CPGs?

As you surf the net, you can find many websites with information on evidenced-based medicine and CPGs. Some of the references include:

<https://phsd.afms.mil>--AF Population Health Support Division

<http://www.qmo.amedd.army.mil/pguide.htm>--U.S. Army MEDCOM Quality Management Office -- of particular interest on this website under the section *Guideline Champion Information* are several very helpful selections such as *Manual for Facility Clinical Practice Guideline Champions* and *Rand Manual--Putting Practice Guidelines to Work in the Department of Defense Medical System*.

<http://www.ahrq.gov/>--Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

<http://www.guideline.gov/>--National Guideline Clearinghouse